

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Craig Brown and Members of Council

CC: City Manager Office, Executive Leadership Team, City Attorney Office

FROM: Sally Bakko, Director of Policy and Governmental Relations

DATE: February 24, 2023

RE: Legislative Report: Austin and Washington Updates

Please find below updates on legislative activities in Austin and Washington. (*To access links below, control+click on link.*)

Austin Update

88th Texas Legislature – Regular Session Key Dates

November 14, 2022 – Prefiling of bills by legislators begins.

January 10, 2023 – Texas Legislature Convenes

March 10, 2023 – 60-Day Bill Filing Deadline

May 29, 2023 – Adjournment Sine Die (140th day or 20 weeks)

Texas Legislature News Highlights

- **[HB 2665](#) Short-term Rental Preemption** filed by Rep. Gary Gates, Vice Chair of the House Committee on Urban Affairs. The bill would preempt Galveston's authority to grant R-0 zoning prohibiting short-term rentals in response to neighborhoods with the requisite petition signatures. Also included in the bill provisions is authority for short-term rental registration; payment of an administrative fee not to exceed \$100 a year; and designation of a local responsible party, who resides within 50 miles of the property and is capable of responding to a complain or other immediate problem within two (2) hours. I will track this bill with more details to come.
- **Galveston Legislative Requests Meetings.** I met with staff from the offices of Senator Kelly Hancock and Senator Chuy Hinojosa to brief them on the City's Legislative Requests regarding emergency financing following a natural disaster and the Dune Protection and Beach Access Plan amendment review and approval process by the Texas General Land Office. Both senators are members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development and the Senate Finance Committee.
- **Galveston County Legislative Day at the Capitol on March 1st.** For more information [click here](#). Councilmembers Marie Robb and Sharon Lewis will participate in meetings at legislative offices. Thus far, we have meetings scheduled with staff for State Senator Jose Menendez, State Representative Justin Holland, House Speaker Dade Phelan, State Representative Geanie Morrison, State Senator Judith Zaffirini, and State Senator Joan Huffman.

Texas Legislature Pre-Filed Bills of Interest

Attached is a memorandum providing summaries of bills that may be of interest to Galveston. The bills are organized in the following categories:

- Property Tax
- Public Safety
- Community and Economic Development
- Open Government
- Other Finance and Administration
- Personnel
- Elections
- Municipal Courts
- Transportation
- Utilities and Environment

Texas Legislature Committee Hearings Update

▪ Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs – Hearing on February 27th

The Committee will meet to receive an overview and update from State Agencies under their jurisdiction including: Texas Water Development Board; Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Public Utility Commission; and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

▪ House Committee on Insurance – Hearing on February 28th

The Committee will meet for an organizational hearing to receive invited testimony from the following agencies: Texas Department of Insurance; Office of Public Insurance Counsel; and Texas Windstorm Insurance Association.

▪ House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety – Hearing on February 28th

The Committee will meet for an organizational hearing to receive invited testimony from the following agencies: Texas Department of Public Safety; Texas Commission on Law Enforcement; Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; Sheriffs Association of Texas; Justices of the Peace and Constables Association; Texas Police Chiefs Association.

▪ House Committee on Urban Affairs – Hearing on February 28th

The Committee will meet for an organizational hearing to receive invited testimony from the following agencies: Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; and Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

▪ House Committee on State Affairs – Hearing on March 1st

The Committee will meet for an organizational hearing to receive invited testimony on matters pertaining to the Texas electric grid.

▪ Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development – Hearing on March 1st

The Committee will meet to receive invited testimony on matters pertaining to Committee oversight.

▪ House Committee on Culture, Recreation & Tourism – Hearing on March 2nd

The Committee will meet for an organizational hearing to receive invited testimony from the following agencies: Texas Parks and Wildlife; Texas Historical Commission; Texas Commission on the Arts; Texas Preservation Board; Texas State Library and Archive Commission; Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office.

Texas Demographic Center to Hold Webinar on Census Count

The Texas Demographic Center is set to hold a webinar on March 7, 2023, on the Census Count Question Resolution (CQR) program. This program allows city officials to request that the Census Bureau review information regarding their housing unit and boundary information which may have affected their 2020 Census count giving cities an opportunity to have the Census Bureau review their

count. The deadline to [submit](#) CQR cases to the Census Bureau is June 30, 2023. City officials can sign up for the webinar [here](#).

Texas Coastal Management Program – Notice of Funds Availability

The General Land Office (GLO) and the Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee (CCAC) released a Notice of Funds Availability to announce upcoming federal grant funds provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and state grant funds provided by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act to the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP). The purpose of the CMP is to improve the management of the state's coastal resources and ensure the long-term ecological and economic productivity of the coast. The GLO will hold four in-person grant workshops to provide information on the funding priorities, outline application requirements, and give potential applicants the opportunity to discuss specific project ideas with GLO staff. Applicants are not required to attend a workshop, but attendance is strongly encouraged. Identical information will be presented at all four workshops. The closest workshop for Galveston:

Workshop 2 - League City Workshop
Thursday, March 2, 2023
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center
400 W Walker St
League City, Texas 77573

Registration is required to attend the workshops. Register for all workshops at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLOworkshops2023>

The requirements to receive federal or state grant funds are outlined in the CMP Cycle 29 Guidance document. This document along with the online application portal, financial guidance, and other useful information can be found here: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/grant-projects/funding/>.

TxDOT Announce \$100 Billion 10-Year Transportation Plan

This week Governor Greg Abbott announced a 10-year, \$100 billion statewide roadway construction plan with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) identifying transportation projects to improve congestion, maintain roadways, and increase safety. More information on the UTP projects is available [here](#). The proposed 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) is estimated to be \$15 billion more than the [2023 UTP](#) and is primarily based on the record projected revenue from state sources. In August 2022, Governor Abbott announced the adoption of TxDOT's [2023 Unified Transportation Program](#) (UTP) that advances a \$85 billion, 10-year statewide roadway construction plan. The UTP is a planning document that guides the development of transportation projects across the state. Additionally, the UTP identifies public transportation, maritime, aviation, and rail investments. Projects are selected by TxDOT and local transportation leaders based on effectiveness in addressing criteria such as safety, pavement condition, capacity, and rural connectivity, with opportunities for public input at both the state and local levels.

Washington Update

FEMA Releases Information on New Community Disaster Resilience Zones

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently [released](#) information on community disaster resilience zones. The *Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act* ([P.L. 117-255](#)) signed into law on December 20, 2022, will build disaster resilience across the country by creating and designating

resilience zones, which identifies disadvantaged communities most at-risk to natural hazards. These designated zones will receive targeted support to access federal funding to plan for resilience projects that will help them reduce impacts caused by climate change and natural hazards. FEMA is responsible for designating community disaster resilience zones in each state based on the highest individual hazard risk ratings and maintaining a geographic balance for the zones, with zones expected to be identified later in 2023.

OMB Seeking Comments on Potential Revisions to 2 CFR

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently posted a [request for information](#) soliciting feedback on title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), subtitle A, chapters I and II. The affected chapters generally relate to grants and agreements, including Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. OMB is seeking feedback on changes that could reduce agency and recipient burden, among other goals. Comments are due by March 13 and OMB anticipates publishing the final update to 2 CFR by December 2023.

FEMA's Virtual Local Mitigation Planning Workshop

FEMA is hosting a virtual Local Mitigation Planning Workshop on March 13-16, 2023. This training covers the basics of mitigation planning for local communities. You will learn about the planning process, assessing risks, and developing and implementing effective mitigation strategies. This course is updated to reflect new guidance, resources and material related to the [2022 Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#). Space is limited and registration is required. [Register via Zoom](#). This workshop is for local community officials, emergency managers, planners and other partners in hazard mitigation planning. It is most helpful to take this training when participants are in the early stages of starting their plan development/update. Have your expiration date handy when registering. Check the [Plan Status Map](#). FEMA will prioritize participants whose plans are 18-24 months from expiration, to ensure the timing of the workshop is beneficial. FEMA will be offering more sessions later this year. Your registration request will be placed on a wait list.

FEMA Build America, Buy America Act Compliance Webinar

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will host a webinar on [March 1](#) at 2pm CT on documenting compliance with the *Build America, Buy America Act*. The webinar will provide an overview of the requirements and FEMA financial assistance applicability under the law, in addition to waiver authority and waiver types. Registration is required.

Reports of Interest

[Texas governor starts state task force on street takeovers](#)

Texas Tribune, February 23, 2023